

count on any ally, arid in spite of the prodigious activity with which a new army was raised those persons must have been blind indeed who could imagine the possibility of his triumphing over Europe, again armed to oppose him. I deplored the inevitable disasters which Bonaparte's bold enterprise would entail, but *I* had such certain information respecting the intentions of the Allied powers, and the spirit which animated the Plenipotentiaries at Vienna, that I could not for a moment doubt the issue of the conflict. Thus I was not at all surprised when I received at Hamburg the minutes of the conferences at Vienna in May, 1815.

When the first intelligence of Bonaparte's landing was received at Vienna it must be confessed that very little had been done at the Congress,¹ for measures calculated to reconstruct a solid and durable order of things could only be framed and adopted deliberately, and upon mature reflection. Louis XVIII. had instructed his Plenipotentiaries to defend and support the principles of justice and the law of nations, so as to secure the rights of all parties and avert the chances of a new war. The Congress was occupied with these important

on that matter her resolution was irrevocable. When I objected that there was no irrevocable engagement, and that events might occur to render her return to France obligatory, she hastened to reply that her father himself had not the right to force her to that. Her decision appeared to me to be taken so obstinately that I judged it useless to recur to the subject" (*Meneval*, tome ii. pp. «H4, 315). She even seems to have dreaded any attempt on the part of her husband to seize her in 1814. "At the very first word the Archduchess Maria Louisa showed her indisposition to content herself with Lucca, or even to care at all about that principality, where, she said, it would not be agreeable for her to reside as long as Napoleon was at Elba". (Talleyrand's *Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 19). The affectionate wife showed no dislike to retain the title of Empress given to her by her parvenu husband, it was only his misfortunes she was unwilling to share.

The Congress of Vienna, if Napoleon had not landed, might have ended in a regular struggle of the Allies over the booty. Russia had demanded all the former Duchy of Westphalia, and thus practically all Poland, while Prussia had seized and claimed all Saxony. Napoleon was dethroned in April, 1814, and it is strange and instructive for us, who in our day have been led to expect peace from the downfall of France, to find Austria, England, and France making an offensive treaty on the 3d of January, 1815, each to lend 150,000 men, against Russia and Prussia. Bavaria, Hanover, and Holland acceded to this treaty in February. If Napoleon could have postponed his return from Elba a few months later he might have found Europe divided and helpless! For the feeling among the Allies see Talleyrand as late as 3d March, 1815. "I exhorted the two negotiators (Austria and Bavaria) severally to try to come to an understanding in order to give Russia and Prussia no loophole for intervention, which would be inevitable if they could not come to an agreement" (Talleyrand's *Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 60).